GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:67
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
ROOT AFFECTED COCONUT HOLDINGS
Ajaya Kumar Shri S.;Mallikarjunaiah Shri S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a project for Management of root affected coconut holdings and enhancement of productivity of coconut;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to eradicate the disease?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 67 DUE FOR REPLY ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2004.

(a)&(b): Yes Sir. The Government of India has received a proposal from the Government of Kerala for the removal of root wilt affected coconut trees and enhancement of productivity at a total cost of Rs.231.80 crores. The main objective of the project is to increase the productivity of the coconut in the severely root wilt affected area in the state by removal of 59.14 lakhs of disease advanced trees and replanting with disease tolerant seedlings. The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has critically examined the project and also organized an interface meeting with the officials of Coconut Development Board, State Agriculture Department, Government of Kerala and Scientists of Research Institutes such as Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kerala Agricultural University and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to discuss the project proposal. Based on the discussions, Government of Kerala has been asked to resubmit the proposal after taking into consideration the possibilities of reducing the project cost by restricting the removal of disease advanced palms in the hot spot areas yielding less than 10 nuts per palm per year only, which do not respond to management practices. The Kerala State Government has submitted the revised project seeking an assistance of Rs. 292.28 crores from Government of India for cutting and removal of disease affected palms, replanting, integrated management of disease affected coconut gardens including irrigation facilities and for establishment of four serological laboratories.. The project is under examination of the technical expert committee constituted by Government of India.

(c): The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has been implementing the scheme Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India including Technology Mission on coconut to address all the issues related to development of coconut industry in India. Under the component integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement of the scheme Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India, assistance is provided to farmers at the rate of Rs.250/- per palm for cutting and removal of diseased palms and Rs.35, 000 per ha for demonstration of technology for management of root wilt disease.

In addition, under the technology mission programmes, assistance is provided to public institutions, NGOs and farmers for development, demonstration and adoption of technologies involved in management of insect pests and disease affected coconut gardens including eradication of root wilt disease. The assistance provided for development of technologies to public institutions is Rs.50 lakhs or 100% of the cost of project and to NGOs and other capable institutions is Rs.25 lakhs or 50% of the cost of project. The assistance provided for demonstration of technologies to public institutions is Rs.25 lakhs or 100% of the cost of project and to NGOs and other capable institutions is Rs.10 lakhs or 50% of the cost of project. The assistance provided for adoption of technologies to public institutions, NGOs, other capable institutions and farmers is 25% of the cost of project.

Under this programme, so far an assistance of Rs.4.996 crore is provided for management of root wilt disease in Kerala. About 29.93 lakh disease affected palms have been cut and removed. This has helped in reducing the disease incidence from 32.4 to 24.0 %.